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# **Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

DuPage County Conference Room

Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

#### **Members Present:**

Mark Avery (chair), Ed Paesel (vice-chair), Roger Dahlstrom, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Lisa DiChiera, David Galowich, Jim LaBelle, Steve Lazzara (for David Dubois), Ken Mirabella (for Jerry Conrad), Heather Smith, Karen Stonehouse, Heather Tabbert, Kai Tarum, Maryanne Wanaski (for Dennis Sandquist), Nathaniel Werner, Norm West

#### **Members Absent:**

Judy Beck, Robert Cole, Robert Palmer, Tim Savage, Nancy Williamson

### **Staff Present:**

Ty Warner (staff liaison), Erin Aleman, Bob Dean, Russell Pietrowiak, Hala Ahmed. Diana Torres and Randy Blankenhorn were also present for the beginning of the meeting.

### **Others Present:**

Robert Muson (CMAP Citizens Advisory Committee); Ryan Richter, Metra; Royce Yeater (National Trust for Historic Preservation); Mike Walczak, Northwest Municipal Conference

#### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

The committee welcomed Maryanne Wanaski from McHenry County, filling in for Dennis Sandquist, and Steve Lazzara from Will County, sitting in for David Dubois.

Diana Torres announced the final FLIP presentation will be held at the Adler Planetarium on Thursday, April 23rd from 6:30 – 8:30pm.

# **3.0** Approval of Meeting Notes – April 15, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 15 meeting was made by Ed Paesel and seconded by Norm West. All in favor, the motion carried.

### 4.0 Legislative Update

Jim LaBelle briefed the Committee on House Bill 2359, sponsored by Kathy Ryg, that would provide transportation incentives around what's planned (the State Transportation Plan and MPOs), and suggests the creation of a state-wide transportation policy committee.

There was also discussion with Randy Blankenhorn on the status of the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund which was deleted from the Governor's budget. Randy indicated it was more helpful for the legislature to hear from their constituents and CMAP's partners on reinstating it than from CMAP itself. Lisa DiChiera asked about the effect on the agency were that money not included; Randy said the agency would need to look at different ways to match funds, and would have to significantly reduce non-transportation work. A sample letter and fact sheet were distributed to the Committee.

# 5.0 Developments of Regional Importance: Mark Avery

Mark relayed that the Programming Coordinating approved the DRI process with the only "nay" vote coming from the Environment & Natural Resources Committee chair. Generally, the Programming committee agreed that while it is not a perfect document, it is something all could live with for the two-year trial period. It will go on to the May 13 CMAP Board meeting, and if approved, it would commence August 1 and the process would be reviewed after July 31, 2011. All of the comments are posted on the CMAP website.

Steve Lazzara said that the Will County Board did not understand the process, and he suggested better outreach and explanation regarding the DRI procedure take place. David Galowich said the DRI procedure should be incorporated into future Planning Commissioner workshops.

The DRI document can be found at <a href="http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=14218">http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=14218</a>

### **6.0 School Siting Strategy Overview:** Russell Pietrowiak, CMAP

In March, Russell had given a presentation on the School Siting Strategy research paper, and the conversation on that research was carried over to today. The Committee was presented with a draft proposal to create a program that brings together municipal planners, school officials, and other relevant parties to develop and implement a comprehensive planning process for school districts to use when selecting a school site and designing/building a school that is based on established planning principles and current best practices.

The task would be to:

- Examine issues such as land/cash ordinances, acreage requirements, transportation, impact fees, etc.
- Put forth recommendations
- Develop a set of best practices preferably from the region

• Develop a toolkit that can be used to see the long term (5+ years) impacts of a school siting decision

Royce Yeater from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Lisa DiChiera from Landmarks Illinois said they are interested in merging the work that the state and CMAP have been doing on schools; from healthy students to preserving historic school buildings, it is an issue that overlaps multiple organizations.

Lisa said the National Trust is one of the sponsors of a similar study with EPA done from the Lt. Governor's office, with Healthy Schools and Landmarks Illinois as co-sponsors. The study linked health and environmental concerns with concerns of preservation and the planning community. She said Royce has been one of the leading voices in historic schools, which are at risk due to flawed policies on school funding. While there is money for aging schools, there is no policy on how to evaluate.

Royce referred to a report entitled *Why Johnny Can't Walk to School* and a follow-up entitled *Helping Johnny Walk to School* which looked at policies that shape current school conditions and understanding the barriers.

Roger Dahlstrom said NIU's Center for Governmental Studies has participated in over 30 studies on this issue. While he is not a proponent of using land/cash contributions as a way to fund schools, the reality is that this is how they are being used. They do not consider the revenue generation of residential development, or that sometimes there may be no school site necessary.

David Galowich said the main thing is the lag time between development approval and when taxes actually start getting paid. There is a disconnect between the planning/siting and the school districts in the community. Norm West said city, suburban and rural areas are all different and cannot be treated equally. Than Werner said that there are firms that specialize in school contributions and they should be involved in these discussions. School districts overlapping several municipalities also complicates things. Heather Smith also related this to climate change issues, air conformity, etc., as relating to idling buses, and mentioned CMAQ programs for diesel retrofits.

Kristi DeLaurentiis said there needs to be a baseline in order to show reductions. There was discussion that most of the costs incurred in student transportation are because of road hazard criteria. Perceived safety is the biggest factor in why kids get driven to school, which is usually perception over reality, and related to other fears other than transportation safety, such as fears concerning abduction, or hanging out with the wrong social group, etc.

Mark asked the Committee if there was interest in creating a subcommittee to take up this issue. Several committee members volunteered: Heather Smith, Nathaniel Werner, Roger

Dahlstrom, David Galowich, and Lisa DiChiera. Karen Stonehouse mentioned she could find a planner from APA.

The strategy report can be found at <a href="http://www.goto2040.org/schoolsiting.aspx">http://www.goto2040.org/schoolsiting.aspx</a>

# 7.0 Go To 2040 Scenarios: Bob Dean & Ross Patronsky

CMAP is required to produce a fiscally constrained list of major transportation capital projects for the region. The committee received a proposed list of evaluation measures along with the specific criteria that would be involved and the tracking indicators that the CMAP Board approved. Ross Patronsky described the measures CMAP is considering, many of which came from the Volpe Center.

CMAP will take the recommended evaluation measures to the Transportation Committee in May and will seek Board approval on this list of measures at their July meeting. Committee comments should be sent to Ross Patronsky (<a href="mailto:rpatronsky@cmap.illinois.gov">rpatronsky@cmap.illinois.gov</a>) by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### 8.0 Next scheduled meeting: May 20th, 2009

### 9.0 Other Business

Heather Tabbert indicated that on April 8<sup>th</sup> RTA announced their next round of funding for three of their planning programs. Submittals are due June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

#### 10.0 Public Comment

No public comment

### 11.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim LaBelle and seconded by Than Werner. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ty Warner AICP

Staff Liaison to the Land Use Committee

*Notes compiled with the assistance of Erin Aleman.*